

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims and the total number of claims is less than originally filed.

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants kindly request the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (847) 490-1400 to schedule a telephone interview, to discuss the merits of this Patent Application.

Amendment to the Drawings

FIG. 1 has been amended to add reference numeral 43a.

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations supported by original Claim 35. Claims 13 and 35 have been canceled in view of amended Claim 1. Claim 24 has been amended to depend from Claim 1. Claim 41 has been canceled. No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Drawing Objection

Fig. 1 has been amended to add reference numeral 43a. Applicants did not find a reference numeral 58 in the description.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 41 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of Claims 1-15 and 24-36 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Salice, U.S. Patent 6,553,617, in view of Bowden et al., U.S. Patent 4,948,103, and Ramsey, U.S. Patent 4,216,694, is respectfully traversed.

The combination does not provide or suggest Applicants' sealing device with an elastic sealing lip (34) providing a hollow space, such that when air pressure builds up in the hollow space (36) the sealing device (34) is pushed against the inner contour (28) of the receiving chamber (20) to form a sliding connection which is largely air-tight, and when an underpressure is created in the hollow space (36) due to a pull-out of the sliding element (12) the elastic sealing lip (34) of the sealing device (34) is spaced apart from the inner contour (28) of the receiving chamber (20) and air flows past the sealing lip (34) into the hollow space (36). The claimed

Serial No.: 10/581,584

invention is not a mere reversal of the parts of the Bowden et al. Patent, as the Bowden et al. Patent does not provide a structure of a hollow space that functions as in Applicants' claimed invention.

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejections of Claims 16, 17 and 37-40, these claims depend from amended Claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as amended Claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for his efforts in determining Claims 18-23 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants believe broader aspects of this invention are patentable, as described above.

Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants

Serial No.: 10/581,584

have not addressed or resolved in this response, the undersigned attorney again requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark D. Swanson
Regis. No. 48,498

Pauley Petersen & Erickson
2800 West Higgins Road
Suite 365
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169
(847) 490-1400
FAX (847) 490-1403